of targets set by it for poverty alleviation according to the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to take any positive measure towards poverty alleviation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URABN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Tenth Five Year Plan period (2002-07) has set a target for reduction of poverty by 5 percentage points by the year 2007 and by 15 percentage points by year 2012.

In the urban areas, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing and employment oriented Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), on all India basis, through States/Union Territories, with effect from 01.12.1997. The scheme envisages to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and underemployed poor through, firstly, encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures, by providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets.

During the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), on all India basis, tragets to provide 4,00,000 employment opportunities to the urban poor, through setting up of micro/group enterprises and to impart skill training to 5,00,000 persons have been fixed under SJSRY. During the frist four years of the Tenth Plan, *i.e.* from 2002-03 to 2005-06, as reported by the States/UTs through Quarterly Progress Reports, cumulatively, 4,50,949 urban poor have been provided skill training.

Manual Scavenging in Urban Areas

1697. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the situation in urban India about sustained access to improved sanitation;

(b) whether it is a fact that manual scavenging continues in many States;

(c) if so, the reasons for the same and reasons for penal action not being taken;

(d) the status of Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993; and

(e) the number of States that have adopted this Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URABN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Water flush latrines are not available to the entire population in the country and dry latrines and manual scavenging still exist in some parts of the country.

(c) Some of the reasons for continuation of the practice are:

- Non-submission of UCs by the States under Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Programme and National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers.
- Unspent balances with States/Scheduled Castes Development Corporations.
- No proper survey of manual scavengers by the States.
- Lack of new Schemes/proposals sent by the States.
- Delay in giving guarantee by the State Governments.

(d) and (e) So far all the Union Territories and 19 States except the State of Jammu and Kashmir have adopted the Act of 1993.

6 States Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim have reported that there are no dry latrines or they are scavenger free.

2 States Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh have enacted their own Act.